

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HAMILTON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 077740

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK, HK

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT ON U.S.-U.K. CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS

FOLLOWING FOR INFORMATION IS TRANSCRIPT OF NBC-TB APRIL 6-7 REPORT ON U.S.-U.K. CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS. PRESS GUIDANCE WILL FOLLOW; BUT NOTE MODEST STATEMENT OF SEC. ADAMS.

"FLOYD KALBER (NBC NEWS): THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, MEAN-TIME, IS TALKING ABOUT CANCELLING ALL OF ITS FLIGHTS INTO THE UNITED STATES AND STOPPING AMERICAN AIRLINERS FROM STOPPING IN ENGLAND. THIS MAY BE AN ATTEMPT TO PRESSURE THE UNITED STATES TO ALLOW THE SUPERSONIC CONCORDE AIRLINER RIGHTS TO LAND IN THE UNITED STATES. BILL STERNOFF HAS DETAILS OF THIS STORY.

"STERNOFF: THE BRITISH WILL TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT IN JUNE, AND THE BRITISH ARE THREATENING TO BREAK OFF AIR TRAVEL WITH THE UNITED STATES. THIS IS WHY. THE LONE BRITISH CARRIER, BRITISH AIRWAYS, CARRIES LESS PASSENGERS
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AND FREIGHT THAN THE AMERICAN LINES WITH WHICH IT COMPETES. NOW, BRITAIN WANTS TO SPLIT REVENUES 50-50 WITH ITS AMERICAN COMPETITORS. THE AMERICAN COMPETITORS DON'T WANT THAT, AND NEITHER DOES PRESIDENT CARTER. THE PRESIDENT WANTS TO OPEN COMPETITION DOMESTICALLY, AND INTERNATIONALLY AS WELL, IN THE HOPE THAT OPEN COMPETITION WILL

LEAD TO LOWER AIR FARES.

"BRITAIN SAYS UNLESS IT GETS ITS WAY, IT WILL HALT AIR TRAFFIC WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC ROUTE TO LONDON, ON THE ROUTES TO BERMUDA AND TERRITORIES IN THE CARIBBEAN AND ON ROUTES OVER THE PACIFIC TO HONG KONG.

"TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY BROCK ADAMS EXPLAINS WHAT MUST BE DONE IS THE BRITISH FOLLOW THROUGH ON THE THREAT TO BREAK OFF AIR TRAFFIC WITH THE U.S.

"ADAMS: WE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE ALTERNATIVE PLACES TO LAND FOR OUR AIRCRAFT IN THE OTHER CAPITALS OF EUROPE, AND OTHER CITIES OF THE WESTERN PART OF EUROPE AND INTO SCANDANAVIAN COUNTRIES SO THAT WE COULD CONTINUE TO HAVE PEOPLE FLOW INTO EUROPE FOR THE TOURIST SEASON. WE HOPE THAT WON'T HAPPEN. BUT IT IS THE KIND OF THING THAT THE BRITISH PREPARE FOR BY GOING INTO MONTREAL OR TORONTO. SO WE HAVE TO MAKE THE SAME KIND OF PREPARATION IF IT LOOKS LIKE THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE GOING TO BREAK DOWN.

"STERNOFF: NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BRITISH ARE UNDER WAY HERE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE DEADLINE IS JUNE 22 AND THE UNITED STATES IS NOT TAKING LIGHTLY THE BRITISH THREAT TO CUT OFF ALL AIR TRAFFIC AFTER THAT DATE. NBC NEWS HAS LEARNED THAT AS A CONTINGENCY, THE UNITED STATES HAS REQUESTED LANDING RIGHTS IN AMSTERDAM AND PARIS FOR THOSE FLIGHTS THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE BE GOING TO LONDON."

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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